

CITY OF NEW YORK
**THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 15, 2024

Hon. David C Banks
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Re: Submission of False Certifications of COVID-19
Vaccinations by DOE Employees
SCI Case #2022-1512 (Revised Case#)

Dear Chancellor Banks:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that sixteen current and former New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) employees knowingly submitted falsified and misleading documents to the DOE claiming that they complied with DOE and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOH/MH”) COVID-19 vaccination mandates. These employees represented that they had been vaccinated by Julie DeVuono, a pediatric nurse practitioner, who was subsequently indicted and pleaded guilty to forging and selling Centers for Disease Control Vaccination Record Cards (“CDC Vax Cards”) following an investigation by the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office (“SCDA”). In pleading guilty, DeVuono made sworn declarations to the court that she and her clinic, Kids-On-Call Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, P.C. (doing business as Wild Child Pediatric Healthcare, hereinafter “Wild Child”) collected payments of \$220 to \$350 solely to issue fake CDC Vax Cards and to enter false information into the New York State Immunization Information System (“NYSIIS”), administered by the New York State Department of Health (“NYS DOH”), that the payors had been vaccinated when they were not.¹

¹ DeVuono also agreed to forfeit criminal proceeds from her scheme totaling more than \$1.25 million and surrender her professional licenses. SCDA’s corresponding civil forfeiture complaint detailed their investigation and the criminal conduct by DeVuono, Wild Child and its employees. According to the SCDA’s complaint, while Wild Child falsified COVID-19 vaccination records in exchange for payments of \$220 (or, after January 1, 2022, \$350), it may have administered some COVID-19 vaccinations. DeVuono’s sentencing has been adjourned to June 6, 2024.

The sixteen subjects were among more than 100 DOE employees who were recorded in NYSIIS as having been vaccinated at Wild Child. The office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) attempted to interview those who submitted certification to the DOE representing that they had been vaccinated at Wild Child. SCI Investigators made home visits, sent certified letters, and telephoned the current and former DOE employees. All but three declined to be interviewed under oath. Most ignored letters directing them to appear for sworn interviews. Only a few employees spoke with SCI investigators who visited or telephoned them; many refused to continue speaking after being informed of the subject matter.

Based on its investigation, and for the reasons described herein, SCI recommends that the DOE take appropriate disciplinary action concerning sixteen of the subject employees (three of whom resigned after DeVuono’s arrest). With respect to the remaining DOE employees, 76 submitted Wild Child “proof” to the DOE. These 76 adults effectively claimed that they were vaccinated at a pediatric clinic on Long Island (later determined to have received more than \$1 million in criminal proceeds) at a time when vaccines were universally available and provided at no cost (per U.S. government mandate) at hundreds of sites throughout New York City and its environs. All but a handful of these DOE employees failed to cooperate in this investigation. As such, in the absence of an interview or some other voluntary statement, SCI did not find supporting sufficient evidence to confirm that the remaining employees violated DOE and DOH/MH COVID-19 vaccination mandates.

I. BACKGROUND

In August 2021, Mayor de Blasio announced that all DOE employees must be vaccinated against COVID-19 (or test negative for the disease every seven days) and must receive their first dose by September 27, 2021. The DOH/MH Commissioner issued a corresponding order in September requiring vaccination (with no testing option) of all “DOE Employees, Contractors, Visitors, and Others.” The Commissioner found (among other factors supporting this mandate) that “... a system of vaccination for individuals working in school settings, including DOE buildings and charter school buildings, will potentially save lives, protect public health, and promote public safety”² After multiple court challenges and temporary restraining orders, the DOE vaccine mandate became effective in October 2021.

The DOE established an online Vaccination Portal (“Vax Portal”) on its website and required employees to upload proof of vaccination such as images of CDC Vax Cards, NYS Excelsior Passes, or other government records.

² Order of the Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene to Require COVID-19 Vaccination for Dept. of Education Employees, Contractors, Visitors and Others (Sept. 21, 2021), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-vaccination-requirement-doe-2.pdf>.

SCI initiated this investigation after learning of the arrest of the Wild Child proprietor, DeVuono, and two of her associates in January 2022. Suffolk County authorities simultaneously executed search warrants at the Wild Child clinic and DeVuono's residence. In the weeks leading up to the arrests, undercover police officers visited Wild Child on multiple occasions and asked for and received fake CDC Vax Cards in exchange for \$220. As DeVuono later admitted at her guilty plea, she and the other defendants charged this sum for each false vaccination entry (date, vaccine manufacturer and lot number, and "Julie DeVuono, NP") on their forged CDC Vax Cards and submitted a corresponding false report into the NYSIIS database. The protocol for the Pfizer vaccines supplied to Wild Child required it to be administered in two doses at least three weeks apart, and so Wild Child received a total of \$440 for the two false vaccination entries. The CDC, which supplied the vaccines at no cost to providers (including Wild Child), prohibited the providers from charging patients to receive the vaccines.

SCI investigators conferred with the SCDA, the NYS DOH, and other law enforcement authorities.³ The SCDA obtained a court order permitting it to share grand jury evidence of its investigation with SCI.⁴ By subpoena, SCI obtained NYSIIS COVID-19 vaccination records and determined that more than 100 DOE employees were recorded in NYSIIS as having been vaccinated at Wild Child.

Court filings by the SCDA in May 2022 described a criminal scheme DeVuono conducted at Wild Child from May 2021 through January 2022.⁵ A licensed nurse practitioner, DeVuono was the chief medical officer and sole proprietor of Wild Child. She devised the scheme, assisted by Marissa Urraro, a licensed practical nurse, along with two females who acted as receptionists and performed data entry tasks at Wild Child. DeVuono and the others received payments (by cash, credit and debit cards, and electronic payment services) from supposed Wild Child patients for providing them with completed and state-registered CDC Vax Cards notwithstanding that they never received COVID-19 vaccinations from DeVuono or from the other employees of Wild Child.

According to the SCDA, DeVuono required patients to pay \$220 (or, after January 2022, \$350) for each false notation on his or her CDC Vax Card and a corresponding false entry in the NYSIIS database that a vaccination had been given to the patient. A second purported shot (in the two-dose Pfizer vaccine regimen) with a false card notation and NYSIIS entry required an additional \$220 payment.⁶ Although it appears that some actual COVID-19 vaccinations were administered at Wild Child during the relevant time-frame, these patients were not charged for the vaccine.⁷

³ These included representatives of the Inspectors General of New York State, the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the New York State Office of Court Administration, and the New York City Department of Investigation. Subsequently, the Kings County District Attorney's Office ("KCDA") provided valuable assistance to SCI.

⁴ None of the SCDA grand jury evidence is referenced in this report.

⁵ NY St Cts Elec Filing [NYSCEF] Doc No. 1, Forfeiture Compl. in *Tierney v. DeVuono*, Sup Ct, Suffolk County, index No. 609301/2022 (May 17, 2022).

⁶ *Id.* ¶¶ 46-49.

⁷ *Id.* ¶ 54.

DeVuono fabricated a coded reference and cover story which she used when discussing these falsely recorded non-vaccinations. She told Urraro and their Wild Child colleagues that the vast majority of the patients who paid \$220 were subject to a “homeopathic detox,” or “HP” treatment or protocols. DeVuono explained that this was not true, but that their references to “homeopathic detox,” or “HP” were to be used to specify paying patients who were not to receive vaccinations. Nor did these individuals receive “homeopathic detox,” or “HP” treatment or protocols. Rather, the patients who paid \$220 were given fake CDC Vax Cards falsely registered with NYSIIS.⁸

DeVuono entered into a signed settlement concerning the SCDA’s civil forfeiture complaint and agreed to pay to SCDA “\$923,319 recovered by execution of court-authorized search warrants, which currency and [bank] accounts were criminal proceeds of the criminal conduct of Julie DeVuono and [Wild Child].”⁹ Most of this sum consisted of \$884,067 in U.S. currency – cash – recovered by police executing search warrants at the Wild Child clinic and DeVuono’s residence.

With respect to her related criminal indictment, DeVuono submitted a signed plea agreement to the court.¹⁰ In it, DeVuono admitted and acknowledged that from June 15, 2021 through January 27, 2022, acting with her co-defendants, she forged “COVID-19 vaccination record cards indicating that individuals received the COVID-19 vaccine when in fact the individuals did not;” entered the false information from the cards into [NYSIIS]; and [from June 15, 2021 through December 31, 2021] “charged each adult individual \$220.00 and each child \$85.00 for each false entry on the COVID-19 vaccination record card.”¹¹

Finally, DeVuono testified under oath before the court when pleading guilty. In her plea allocution, DeVuono answered affirmatively that acting in concert with Urraro and others at Wild Child, she sold forged CDC Vax Cards to persons who had not been vaccinated and charged \$220 for each false entry on the cards and in NYSIIS; that the vast majority of those who received the forged cards paid in cash or by credit card; and that she discarded the actual vaccines in the garbage can at Wild Child.¹²

II. SCI’s INVESTIGATION

A. Documents

SCI obtained documents (including CDC Vax Cards and New York State Excelsior Passes) submitted to the DOE vax portal which specified Wild Child and DeVuono as the vaccine provider. The

⁸ *Id.* ¶¶ 53-58.

⁹ *DeVuono, supra*, NY St Cts Elec Filing [NYSCEF] Doc No. 12, Stipulation of Settlement with Order and Judgment of Forfeiture on Consent, ¶¶ 1, 12-13 (Oct. 5, 2023).

¹⁰ Plea Agreement in *People v. DeVuono*, Sup Ct, Suffolk County, Collins, J., indictment Nos. 70771-23/001, 70771-23/002, 71631-23/001, 71631-23/002, 70807-23 (Sept. 15, 2023).

¹¹ *Id.* ¶¶ 2, 12 (b)-(g). DeVuono also admitted that from January 1, 2022, through January 22, 2022, she, and her co-defendants “charged each adult individual \$350.00 for each false entry on the COVID-19 vaccination record card.” *Id.* ¶ 12 (h).

¹² Plea Proceedings, *People v. DeVuono, supra*, tr at 31-34, 40-41, 45 (Sept. 15, 2023).

NYS DOH matched the DOE employees' names and vaccination dates on these documents to those Wild Child reported to the NYSIIS database.

In April 2022, SCI determined that there was a high probability that approximately ninety-two DOE employees had not received one or both required COVID-19 vaccinations, contrary to their written verifications submitted to the DOE. While SCI's investigation was ongoing, SCI reported this information to the DOE leadership so that it might take whatever action it deemed appropriate in the interest of public health and, specifically, the safety and wellness of DOE students, employees, and their families. SCI provided DOE with a list of the employees in question. DOE advised SCI that a few of the listed employees were not currently active, and notified the remaining employees that they could not report to their workplace and were placed on leave without pay.¹³

SCI obtained information and documents from SCDA's investigation and prosecution concerning Wild Child. Separately, SCI received financial information concerning electronic payments (e.g., credit and debit cards, digital payment services) to Wild Child from accounts associated with 16 of the subject DOE employees.¹⁴ These showed payments of \$220 (or evenly divisible multiples of \$220) on or near the vaccination dates recorded on the employees' CDC Vax Cards and in NYSIIS. Electronic payment information for a larger group of Wild Child patients (in addition to the DOE subjects) appearing in NYSIIS showed a similar pattern. From June 16, 2021, through December 30, 2021, there were more than 890 electronic payments to Wild Child of \$220 (and larger sums evenly divisible by \$220) on dates coinciding with purported vaccination dates Wild Child reported to NYSIIS.¹⁵

As noted above, as of January 2022, DeVuono's fee for fake cards and reports increased to \$350. Consequently, the pattern of electronic payments to Wild Child continued at this higher rate. From January 4, 2022, through January 20, 2022 (one week before DeVuono's arrest and the search warrant executions), there were seven electronic payments of \$350 and two payments of \$700, all likely in exchange for eleven fake cards and false NYSIIS reports.

It is not uncommon for those who engage in illicit transactions to try to avoid detection by paying in cash rather than more traceable means. It appears that many paid in cash for the fake cards and false reports from Wild Child. SCDA seized nearly \$900,000 in U.S. currency when it executed a search warrant at DeVuono's residence, as well as a ledger documenting unlawful profits of \$1.5 million from November 2021 through January 2022.¹⁶ SCDA's forfeiture complaint specified that the cash portion of the criminal proceeds obtained by DeVuono was not less than \$882,732, or more than

¹³ Most of the suspended employees were reinstated by January 2023.

¹⁴ Some of this financial information was provided to SCI by KCDA pursuant to two court orders which allowed SCI access to grand jury evidence and permitted SCI to disclose such evidence to the DOE Administrative Trials Unit for its use in administrative trials and other disciplinary proceedings.

¹⁵ The total of these electronic payments to Wild Child examined by SCI amounted to \$340,120, which may have accounted for 1,546 falsely recorded and reported vaccine doses over six and one-half months.

¹⁶ Nicole Fuller, *Alleged Fraud Case Gets Date. LI Woman Charged with Selling \$1.5M in Fake Coronavirus Vaccination Cards*, *Newsday*, Feb. 9, 2022, 2022 WLNR 4024327.

sixty-five percent of the total criminal proceeds (cash, plus checks, credit and debit card payments, and other electronic transfers) of not less than \$1,344,602.¹⁷

B. Subject Interviews.

All of the DOE subjects who agreed to speak with SCI investigators in sworn recorded interviews or at their homes or workplaces maintained that they received vaccinations at Wild Child as documented in their submissions to the DOE. Their accounts appear below. Unless noted otherwise, each subject was documented (in NYSIIS and a corresponding CDC Vax Card or equivalent submitted to the DOE) as having been vaccinated twice by DeVuono with at least a three-week intervention. One claimed that she received and paid for a homeopathic remedy (shown above to be a cover story). Others claimed not to recall why they paid Wild Child for a vaccination available to all free of charge.

C. Interviews at the SCI office.

Only three DOE employees agreed to be interviewed under oath at SCI; each was accompanied by an attorney. All three confirmed that they submitted their CDC Vax Cards to the DOE portal, identified these cards, and claimed that they were genuine.¹⁸

Employee 1

A teacher assigned to a middle school in Queens, stated that she received doses of the Pfizer vaccine from DeVuono in two visits to Wild Child in August and September 2021. Employee 1 said that she visited Wild Child, alone, to inquire about pediatric care for her children, and that DeVuono offered her the vaccination, which she accepted. She reported that DeVuono injected the vaccine in her arm at both visits. Employee 1 said that on the same day as her initial visit to Wild Child, she informed her husband and sister (both of whom she identified) about her vaccination, and they came to Wild Child later that day and received vaccinations.¹⁹ Investigators showed Employee 1 a bank statement in her name, and she confirmed that it was her account. It showed two incoming “Zelle” payments to Employee 1 of \$220 from her husband on the same August and September dates recorded on her CDC Vax Card on which DeVuono purportedly administered the vaccine doses to Employee 1.²⁰ The statement also contained another Zelle payment of \$440 from Employee 1 to her sister on the same August date on which the NYSIS database shows that they both received the vaccine from DeVuono. Asked to explain, Employee 1 claimed that she could not recall the Zelle transactions nor their purpose and

¹⁷ *Tierney v. DeVuono, supra* (Complaint) ¶¶ 72-75. DeVuono agreed to forfeit these criminal proceeds in a stipulation and settlement on September 18, 2023. *Id.* Representatives of SCDA reported that they did not recover any records which identified individuals who paid Wild Child in cash.

¹⁸ All purported dosage dates on DOE employees’ CDC Vax Cards referenced herein correspond to the NYSIIS database entries which Wild Child reported to the NYS DOH.

¹⁹ Employee 1, her husband, and sister appear in the NYSIS database as having been vaccinated by DeVuono on the same two dates.

²⁰ Zelle is a digital payments network which enables individuals to electronically transfer money from their bank account to another registered user’s bank account using a mobile device or the website of a participating bank.

denied that she paid anything to Wild Child in connection with her vaccinations. SCI investigators found this statement to lack credibility. Employee 1 said she had no knowledge of homeopathic treatments at Wild Child and was not offered any during her visits to the clinic.

Employee 2

A teacher also assigned to a middle school in Queens, stated that she was vaccinated at Wild Child in August and September 2021.²¹ Employee 2 testified that she learned of Wild Child via social media and chose the clinic because it offered a detox treatment (vitamins and supplements) as she was concerned about ill side effects from the vaccinations. She said that she was unsure of the name of the person who gave her the injections, but that it was not DeVuono. Investigators showed Employee 2 a bank statement in her name showing two \$220 Venmo payments to Wild Child, each on the dates corresponding to their reports to the NYSIIS database.²² She claimed that these were payments for detox vitamins and supplements provided to her at Wild Child, and that she ingested them for three days after each injection. In view of DeVuono's declaration that \$220 payments were in exchange for false records, SCI investigators found Employee 2's claim about detox implausible.

Employee 17

A Custodial Engineer assigned to a middle school in Queens, testified that his then-wife scheduled his initial vaccination appointment with DeVuono at Wild Child, which he attended alone.²³ He said that his former wife's relatives had taken their children to Wild Child and DeVuono for pediatric care, and they recommended DeVuono to his former wife. Employee 17 claimed that he did not personally speak with the source of this referral, or even know which of his ex-wife's relatives made the recommendation. He maintained that DeVuono administered the vaccine doses to him on the two dates in September 2021, corresponding to the dates on the CDC Vax Card he submitted to the DOE Portal. Employee 17 said that he did not pay anything to Wild Child.²⁴ He did not recall what forms he filled out at his visits to Wild Child; he knew nothing about supposed homeopathic treatments offered by the clinic. Finally, Employee 17, whose residence was located about four miles from Wild Child, said that he did not learn of DeVuono's arrest in January 2022 – through media reports or other sources – until after he was suspended by the DOE in April 2022. Employee 17's stated ignorance of the specific information concerning his wife's efforts to arrange his visit to Wild Child, and his claimed belated discovery of DeVuono's arrest, are not credible.

²¹ Employee 2 claimed that she requested a religious exemption from the DOE concerning the vaccinations but did not receive a reply. After the DOE notified Employee 2 by email on April 20, 2022, that she was being suspended without pay, she replied by email and asserted that "The required vaccines were given to me in August and September"

²² Venmo, like Zelle, is a digital payments network. The CDC Vax Card Employee 2 submitted to the Vax Portal states that she received her first vaccination dose from DeVuono on the corresponding June date; the line for the second dose is blank.

²³ Employee 17 said that he and his wife subsequently divorced.

²⁴ SCI did not locate any electronic payment information concerning Employee 17 and Wild Child.

D. Interviews in the Field or by Telephone.

Most DOE employees contacted by SCI investigators at their work assignments, residences, or by telephone declined to be interviewed (or cut the interview short).²⁵ One employee with pertinent financial records concerning Wild Child agreed to be interviewed, before declining to continue.²⁶

Employee 3

A teacher formerly assigned to an elementary school in Queens, was reportedly vaccinated by DeVuono at Wild Child in August and September 2021. There were corresponding electronic payments to Wild Child from accounts belonging to close relatives of Employee 3: \$830 on the August dose date, and \$660 on the September date. In an email to the DOE, Employee 3 protested his suspension and reiterated his claim that he had been vaccinated at Wild Child. He also wrote that his children had been patients at Wild Child, and that he learned of DeVuono's subsequent arrest. Contacted by telephone, Employee 3 told an SCI Investigator that he had been vaccinated at Wild Child, and that his children were treated there. He admitted paying a fee to Wild Child, but said that he was unsure of the amount, or what the payment was for. Employee 3 mentioned that there was some discussion concerning a homeopathic treatment, but he could not recall the details. The SCI Investigator found his lack of certainty regarding the purpose of such large expenditures (totaling nearly \$1,500) lacking credibility. Employee 3 declined to speak further and resigned from the DOE on September 6, 2022.

E. DOE subjects with electronic payment information concerning Wild Child who declined or did not respond to SCI interview requests.

Thirteen DOE employees whose financial records (bank or credit card accounts in which the employee, or their spouse or parent, is an authorized user) show electronic payments to Wild Child corresponding to purported vaccination dates by DeVuono on CDC Vax Cards or other documented proof submitted to the DOE portal, declined or did not respond to SCI requests for interviews.²⁷ Ten of these employees with such financial records – through their attorneys – declined to be interviewed; nine asserted the tenure privilege under N.Y. Education Law § 3020-a, and one (Employee 14) claimed the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

1. Declined to be interviewed through attorneys:

Employee 4

Employee 4 and her husband, **Employee 5**, teachers assigned to the same school in Queens, paid \$420 to Wild Child on June 21, 2021, the date of their first reported dose by

²⁵ These employees were not placed under oath.

²⁶ Other DOE employees who agreed to speak with SCI investigators (at least for a time) had no discernable financial connection to Wild Child.

²⁷ The purported vaccination dates submitted to the DOE also correspond with the NYSIIS database.

DeVuono. There was no discernable electronic payment on July 14, 2021, the date of their second reported dose.²⁸

Employee 6

A Special Education Teacher assigned to an elementary / middle school in Brooklyn, was reportedly vaccinated by DeVuono in June and July 2021. There were two electronic payments to Wild Child from an account in the name of Employee 6's mother: \$440 on the reported June date; there was no payment record on the date of second reported dose (July 22, 2021), but the same account shows a subsequent \$440 payment to Wild Child on January 24, 2022.

Employee 7

A teacher assigned to a junior high school in Queens paid \$610 to Wild Child on the same June 2021 date reported as her first dose from DeVuono. There was no discernable electronic payment on the July date of her second reported dose.

Employee 8

A pre-kindergarten teacher assigned to an elementary school in Queens paid \$220 to Wild Child on the same August 2021 date reported as her initial dose by DeVuono. There was no discernable electronic payment on the reported date of her second dose later that month. Employee 8 protested her suspension in an email to the DOE in which she claimed that she received a COVID vaccination on April 25, 2022. She attached a CDC Vax Card indicating that she received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination on that date; the provider was identified as "FPC."²⁹

Employee 9

A teacher assigned to a high school in Queens paid \$220 to Wild Child on each of two reported dosage dates in August and September 2021.

Employee 10

A teacher assigned to an intermediate school in Queens paid \$220 and \$440 to Wild Child on the dates of her first and second reported doses, respectively, in September 2021.

Employee 11

A teacher formerly assigned to a high school in Queens, paid \$220 to Wild Child on the first reported dose date in September 2021. There was no discernable electronic payment on the second reported dose date in October 2021.

Employee 12

A special education teacher assigned to an elementary school in Queens was reported to have been dosed by DeVuono in September and October 2021. There were two

²⁸ In separate emails to the DOE on April 19, 1022, Employees 4 and Employee 5 maintained that they had been vaccinated and had submitted proof.

²⁹ Unlike the Pfizer two-dose protocol, the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was administered as a single dose.

electronic payments of \$1,000 to Wild Child from an account in the name of Employee 12's husband on each of the reported dose dates.

Employee 13

A teacher assigned to an elementary / middle school in Queens paid \$220 to Wild Child on each of her two reported dosage dates in October and November 2021.

Employee 14

A skilled laborer assigned to the DOE Division of School Facilities, made two \$440 payments to Wild Child on the two reported dose dates in September and October 2021. As noted above, Employee 14's attorney declined to allow him to be interviewed by SCI investigators, citing the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

2. Did not reply to SCI.

Employee 15

A Special Education Teacher formerly assigned to District 75, had two reported dose dates by DeVuono in June and July 2021. She paid \$660 to Wild Child on the second dose date. There was no discernable electronic payment on the June date of her first reported dose. Employee 15 retired from the DOE on March 1, 2022.³⁰

Employee 16

A school psychologist formerly assigned to an elementary school in Queens, was reported to have been dosed by DeVuono in September and October 2021. There was one electronic payment of \$440 to Wild Child from an account in the name of Employee 16's sister on the day following the second reported dose date.³¹ Employee 16 resigned from the DOE in September 2022.

F. Subjects without discernable financial connections to Wild Child

Employee 17, described above, and five current and former DOE employees who submitted Wild Child CDC Vax Cards to the DOE declined SCI requests for interviews or gave incomplete accounts to SCI investigators, had no discernable financial information connecting them to Wild Child. SCI will provide their names to the DOE Administrative Trials Unit if so requested.

³⁰ Employee 15 did not reply to written requests from SCI. A neighbor near her listed New York address told SCI investigators that she moved to Florida.

³¹ There was another \$440 payment to Wild Child from this account twenty days prior to Employee 16's first reported dose.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon review of the above facts, SCI substantiated that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that at least sixteen current and former DOE employees – identified herein as Employee 1 through Employee 16 – violated DOE and DOH/MH directives by refusing to be vaccinated, and they deceived the DOE by submitting fake documents to the contrary. This evidence is amply corroborated by the (1) sworn admissions of Julie DeVuono, and (2) the employees’ documented payments of substantial sums to Wild Child coinciding with the dates of reported vaccinations, which were universally available at no cost. These employees very likely endangered public health and, specifically, the safety and wellness of DOE students, employees, and their families. We recommend appropriate disciplinary action concerning the active employees, which may include dismissal from employment.³² We recommend that a problem code be added to the DOE personnel database concerning the three former employees, and that these findings be considered should any seek employment with the DOE or its vendors in the future.

We have determined that there is insufficient evidence to substantiate the findings concerning the remaining DOE employees identified herein. However, these actions by DOE employees, as reported and as likely to have taken place, amount to criminal acts. Although SCI is not referring this matter to a prosecuting authority, it constitutes a serious violation of the public trust. The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York (“USAO”) obtained guilty pleas from two similar conspirators who, like DeVuono, forged and sold CDC vax cards to public employees and others and made false reports to NYSIIS. The USAO, in its sentencing recommendation for one of the co-defendants, noted that as COVID-19 raged, hundreds of thousands of Americans perished:

Vaccine requirements were imposed, in part, to provide reassurance to those at high-risk: people with preexisting conditions; people who worked in high-transmission workplaces; people with elderly parents in their care; people with young children at home - reassurance that it was safe to resume public life. The defendant encouraged hundreds of people, including those in high-risk, high-transmission jobs (such as healthcare or the military) to flout such public health measures and fraudulently enter those same spaces. And he was doing so during a pandemic from which New Yorkers suffered and died in such high numbers that hospitals ran out of beds for non-Covid patients - when New York City was forced to deploy refrigerator trucks as de facto morgues.³³

³² The Office of the MTA Inspector General (“OIG”) recently announced the results of its investigation which found that twelve MTA employees submitted fraudulent COVID-19 vaccination cards obtained from DeVuono. In response to the OIG’s report, one employee was terminated; eleven employees were charged and suspended, and those employees agreed to serve unpaid suspensions that ranged from 60 to 120 calendar days. MTA OIG Report (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://mtaig.ny.gov/Reports/2024-01%20MTA%20Employees%E2%80%99%20Submission%20of%20Falsified%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Record%20Cards%20to%20MTA%20.pdf>.

³³ Sentencing Letter at 10, *United States v. Jia Liu*, No. 1:22-cr-00070-DG (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 2, 2024), ECF No. 93 (citation omitted). The defendant was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

The actions of these DOE employees, many of whom were responsible for the safety and wellbeing of young children in their care, were no less egregious.

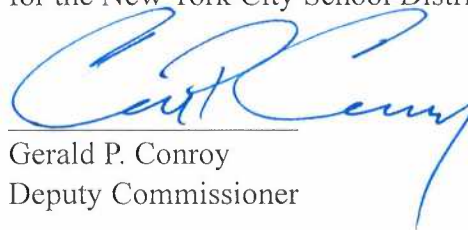
We are sending a copy of this letter to the Office of Legal Services. Should you have any inquiries concerning this matter, please contact me at (212) 510-1486 or gconroy@nycsci.org.

Please notify SCI in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter of what, if any, action has been taken or is contemplated with respect to and the recommendations made herein. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ANASTASIA COLEMAN
Special Commissioner of Investigation
for the New York City School District

By:



Gerald P. Conroy
Deputy Commissioner

AC:GCP:lr

cc: Elizabeth Vladeck, Esq.
Charity Guerra, Esq.
Karen Antoine, Esq.
Katherine Rodi, Esq.